



Congress Responds to Tuesday's Attack

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NOTE: The RSC will update this document as the House considers additional legislation in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

- **Use of Force.** The House and Senate passed a resolution authorizing the President to use “all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons.” (*S.J.Res. 23; H.J.Res. 64*)
- **\$40 Billion Supplemental Appropriations Package.** The House and Senate passed a supplemental appropriations bill distributing \$40 billion for relief of Tuesday's attack as follows:
 - \$10 billion immediately available for the following five purposes:
 1. providing federal, state and local preparedness for mitigating and responding to the attacks
 2. providing support to counter, investigate, or prosecute domestic or international terrorism
 3. providing increased transit security
 4. repairing public facilities and transit systems damaged by the explosions
 5. supporting national security
 - \$10 billion available 15 days after the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) informs Congress how the money will be spent
 - \$20 billion set aside pending further legislative action from Congress

The bill also contains a requirement that at least \$20 billion of the \$40 billion be spent on "disaster recovery activities and assistance related to the terrorist acts in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania." (*H.R. 2888*)

- **Expedited Payments to Law Enforcement.** The House and Senate passed a bill expediting payment of benefits under the Public Safety Officer Benefit program to the public safety officers who were killed or suffered a catastrophic injury in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks of September 11. Payment to the officer or the officer's family will be sent no later than 30 days after a determination of eligibility. (*H.R. 2882*)
- **Victims Tax Relief.** The House passed a bill providing the following tax relief for victims of Tuesday's attack:
 1. Estate tax reduction of more than 50% for individuals who were killed in Tuesday's terrorist attack or who die as a result of injuries suffered from that attack.
 2. Exemption from federal income tax in the year of death for individuals who died in Tuesday's terrorist attack or who die from injuries suffered as a result of that attack.

3. Exemption from federal income tax for any per-passenger payments made by United Airlines and American Airlines to victims' families.
 4. Exemption from federal income tax for FEMA assistance payments. (*H.R. 2884*)
- **Allowing Entrance of Non-Citizen Informants.** The House and Senate passed a bill to give the INS *permanent* authorization to grant the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants into the United States. "S" visa non-immigrants are aliens who are admitted into this country solely for the purpose of assisting law enforcement as informants in criminal cases. Such aliens are granted entrance into the U.S. in exchange for their information and can become permanent residents after certain conditions are met. The INS's authority is only *temporary* in current law; this bill would make the authority permanent. (*S.1424*)
 - **Condemning the Attack.** The House and Senate passed a resolution:
 1. commending the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, and state and local officials
 2. declaring that the United States is entitled to respond under international law
 3. thanking those foreign leaders and individuals who have expressed solidarity with the United States, and asking them to continue to stand with the United States in the war against international terrorism
 4. committing to support more resources to the war on terrorism
 5. supporting the determination of the President, in close consultation with the Congress, to punish the perpetrators of these attacks, as well as their sponsors. (*H.J.Res. 61; S.J.Res. 22*)
 - **Resolution of American Solidarity.** The House and Senate passed yesterday a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that as a symbol of solidarity following the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, every United States citizen is encouraged to display the flag of the United States for the next thirty days. (*H.Con.Res 225*)
 - **Flags to Victims and Families.** The House passed a resolution providing Capitol-flown flags to each surviving victim and the family of each deceased victim of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. (*H.Res. 239*)
 - **Condemning Bigotry.** The House passed a resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of the terrorist attacks. (*H.Con.Res.227*)
 - **Condemning Price Gouging.** The House passed a resolution condemning any motor-fuel price gouging during the hours and days after the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001. (*H.Res. 238*)